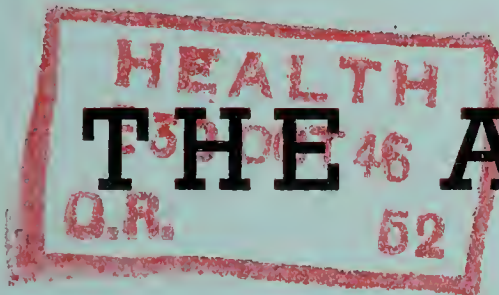


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THE ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Rural District of Wigton

for the year

1945

by the

Medical Officer of Health

* * *

With the Reports of the Chief Sanitary
Inspector and the Water Engineer

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Inspector and the Water Engineer

For years the outfall sewer itself has been in a precarious condition and the treatment works themselves almost beggar description.

I trust a sense of urgency may characterise the handling of this affair, otherwise the consequences may be serious in the extreme.

Now that we have been able to centralise and rearrange the staff of the Health Department we are in a far better position to deal with our many duties than at any time since the present Wigton Rural District came into being.

I desire to express my appreciation of the co-operation given by Dr. K. Fraser (County Medical Officer of Health) and his staff, and also to thank the Council, its officers and staff for their willing help and support during the past year.

To the General Medical Practitioners in the area I beg to offer an especial word of thanks for their continued active co-operation with us, and, for the regularity with which they have rendered their monthly return of the non-notifiable diseases, and kept me informed of any other diseases prevalent in their areas. I know of no other district in which such excellent co-operation exists.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD C. SIMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics

						1945.
Area of District in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	138,620
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population for mid 1945	...	...	...	...	...	21,660
Population at Census of 1931	...	...	...	...	...	22,058
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate books at the end of 1945	...	...	...	...	...	6,329
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£113,368
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£439

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

Live Births

					Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	387	212	175
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	40	24	16
Total live births	...	...	...	...	427	236	191
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 19.7.							

Still Births

					Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	10	3	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total still births	...	...	...	...	10	3	7
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, 23.4.							

Deaths

					Total.	M.	F.
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population, 12.5	...	...	...	...	272	135	137
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (P. Sepsis)	...	...	...	...	Nil	—	—
Deaths from other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age (M., 10; F., 10—Total 20.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
DEATHS from Cancer (M., 19; F., 17)	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
from Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
from Whooping Cough (M., 1; F., 0)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) (M., 1; F., 2)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Altogether 254 deaths were registered in the District; of these 17 were of non-residents and are therefore “outward transfers” and all details regarding them are excluded from this report.

There were in addition 35 deaths of persons who normally lived in the District and who died outside it—chiefly in Hospitals—these have been treated as “inward transfers” and details regarding them have, therefore, been included in the general statistics of the area.

Of the 20 deaths of infants recorded above 10 were from Congenital causes.

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 20 (M., 10; F., 10), this being below the average for the whole County and slightly above the average for the Rural Districts.

The causes of deaths were:—

Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	4	} 10
Congenital Deformity, etc.			...	...	6	
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2	
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	1	
Accidental Suffocation		...	...	...	2	
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	2	
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.—These are the same as before the war, all investigations are carried out at the Pathological Laboratory at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, and the present arrangements are considered to be quite satisfactory.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Ambulance stationed at Wigton covers the whole of the Wigton Rural District and during the past year has covered 7,900 miles and has con-

veyed 214 cases to and from hospital, etc. Undoubtedly it has been of immense service to the public since it came into use in March, 1937.

Nursing in the Home.—The whole area is now adequately covered by the District Nursing Association, and all of them supply motor vehicles for the use of their nurses. The following list gives the names and addresses of all the nurses working within the Wigton Rural District and who are responsible for the General Midwifery, and Public Health work within their areas with the exception of Wigton, Silloth and Aspatria where the Public Health work is done by County Health Visitors.

District Nursing Association

Allhallows N.A.—Nurse Smithson, Ellenside, Ireby.

Aspatria N.A.—Nurse McMullin, 36, Council Terrace, Aspatria.

Bothel N.A.—Nurse Johnston, Threapland, Aspatria. (Blennerhasset and part of Torpenhow.)

Burgh N.A.—Nurse Hesket, Welton House, Burgh-by-Sands (Part of Bowness and Kirkbampton parishes.)

Caldbeck N.A.—Nurse McCulloch, Beckside, Caldbeck.

Holme Cultram N.A.—Nurse Cullum, 6, Abbey Terrace, Abbey Town.

Kirkbride N.A.—Nurse Rome, King's Arms House, Bowness-on-Solway.

Oughterside N.A.—Nurse Maxtead, Moorside Cottage, Prospect. (Allonby, Hayton and Mealo.)

Silloth N.A.—Nurse Storey, 61, Wampool Street, Silloth.

Thursby N.A.—Nurse Greenup, The Square, Thursby.

Waverton N.A.—Nurse Whyte, 5, Proctor's Row, Wigton.

Wigton N.A.—Nurse Graham, 14, William Street, Wigton.

County Health Visitors.—Miss Mercer, 147, Brampton Road, Carlisle, is responsible for the Public Health work in Wigton, Silloth, and part of Holme Low.

Miss Teasdale, 11, Ada Street, Netherton, Maryport, is responsible for the Public Health work in Aspatria, Westnewton, Blennerhasset, and parts of Allhallows and Torpenhow.

Clinics and Treatment Centres and Hospital Arrangements.—The Clinic at Wigton has functioned continuously as previously, and the new Aspatria Clinic, which was completed early in 1940 was only used for Dental and A.R.P. purposes during the war owing to shortage of staff; since April, 1946, however, it has been in full use as a Treatment Centre for School, and M. and C.W. Clinics, as well as the local Tuberculosis Dispensary and for Diphtheria Immunisation.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies.—These have been dealt with fully by the Water Engineer, whose detailed report will be found on page 33.

Drainage and Sewerage.—For details see the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report on page 26.

Pollution of Rivers.—Complaints have been received of pollution of the rivers in the vicinity of Wigton town. Investigation showed that it came from two sources, partly from trade waste in the form of oil, etc., and partly from the almost constant overflow of sewage from the Wigton sewerage works.

The matter has received careful consideration by the Council and the Committee concerned, but nothing can be done to abate this pollution until the whole of the Wigton Sewerage Scheme has been completely overhauled and remodelled, as the present works are grossly overloaded and incapable of dealing with existing conditions.

There is a new Scheme which is at present in the hands of the Council's Consulting Engineers, but I am afraid that the present difficulties in the way of construction of new works and buildings generally will prevent the completion of the necessary scheme for some considerable time to come.

Closet Accommodation.—The war and its aftermath severely curtailed the conversion of privies, pail closets, and earth closets, which still abound in so many of our villages, into water closets. Even so the figures contained in the Sanitary Inspectors' report are indicative of progress under difficulties.

Scavenging.—In my first annual Report for 1934 I drew especial attention to the very backward condition of the rural scavenging. Year by year it had been again referred to, and in 1937 “a comprehensive Scavenging Scheme by means of the Council’s own lorries throughout the whole area” was strongly recommended.

Those seeds sown nine years ago are now bearing fruit, and I am pleased to be able to report that a large number of our villages and hamlets are now having a regular collection of house refuse, etc. A third refuse collecting vehicle is now on order and as soon as it is delivered I am hopeful that almost the whole area will be adequately covered by this very necessary service. There will, however, be one or two villages or hamlets which may have to make their own local arrangements as owing to their remote position and somewhat difficult access, it would be uneconomical in time and cost for the Council’s vehicles to collect it.

It has been by no means an easy problem to obtain adequate tipping sites and accommodation, but there should have been no real difficulty if the various parishes concerned had displayed a greater measure of co-operation.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—For details see tables and the Chief Sanitary Inspector’s report.

Wigton Swimming Baths.—For a number of years before the war various schemes were considered whereby this bath could be improved, but nothing came of them. Recently, however, this bath has been acquired by the County Council and doubtless many of the long needed improvements will be carried out at a reasonably early date.

Disinfestation.—No cases of insect infestation called for treatment by the Department during the year, although advice and free issue of a suitable insecticide were given in a few instances where cockroaches were reported as troublesome.

No case of bed-bug infestation was reported.

Premises infested by rats are now being dealt with according to the recommendations of the Ministry of Food, with good results.

Schools.—Several of the rural schools in this area are still almost prehistoric in their sanitary arrangements. Some, which are situated near the villages, will eventually be connected to the Council sewers when the new sewerage schemes are completed, but there will always be a number remote from villages and beyond the range of the sewers and they will need special consideration.

Unfortunately procrastination seems to be the watch-word of many school managers and the new Education Act has encouraged them to “wait and see what happens” before they embark on any outlay which they hope may eventually be borne by some other authority than themselves.

All schools in the area now have an adequate water supply.

Nutrition of School Children.—As in previous years the County School Medical Officer gave a series of figures in his 1945 Report on the Medical Inspection of school children, showing the general nutrition of the elementary school children examined as “Routines” (entrants about 5 years old, intermediates 8 years old, and leavers 12 years old).

The following figures for the whole of the County of Cumberland and of the Wigton Rural District are given below for the sake of comparison:—

<i>County Wigton R.D.</i>			
In Category “A” above average	1805	318	
	(21.64%)	(37.54%)	
„ „ „ B,” average	5757	513	
	(69%)	(60.56%)	
„ „ „ C,” below average	757	15	
	(9.07%)	(1.78%)	
„ „ „ D,” bad	21	1	
	(0.29%)	(0.12%)	
Total	8340	847	

Compared with previous years there appears to have been a general improvement in the standard of nutrition in this area and particularly so in the case of the "entrants" where the percentage of Category "A" was 47.6 per cent. As a School Medical Officer, my experience over many years is that, no matter how restricted the family food supplies may be, owing to unemployment or war-time conditions, the younger children are usually well nourished and cared for, possibly often at the expense of the parents or even older children.

The increase in Category "A" is, I think, undoubtedly due to their extra milk allowance, together with the Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice, etc., which have been available since the early days of the war and is a tribute to the parents who have taken advantage of these extras.

A large majority of the children included in Category "C" come from good homes, and their "below average" nutrition is not due to lack of suitable food, but rather to poor physique generally which is often a family characteristic.

PRESENT POSITION REGARDING NEW WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Owing to the war several schemes which had been approved by the Ministry of Health were postponed indefinitely. In some cases the tenders for the new work had actually been accepted. These pre-war schemes, as well as many others, have been considered by the Council and forwarded to the County Council or Ministry of Health for their approval and it is hoped that on some of them, at least, work will be started in the not distant future.

The following details give the present position regarding them :—

Water

Schemes and extensions completed since 1938.—

Extension to Greenhill and Boltons.

Extension to Thursby.

New Schemes at Ireby, Uldale and Torpenhow.

New trunk main to Anthorn from Quarry Hill.

New Schemes and extension pending.—

Extensions to new houses at Wigton and Silloth
and to a new factory site at Aspatria.

Extensions in the parishes of Holme Low and
Holme St. Cuthbert.

New Joint Scheme for Caldbeck and Hesket-new-
Market.

New main from Whitrigg to Bowness, etc.

Sewerage**Schemes completed since 1938.—**

Kirkbride, Abbey Town, Uldale, Ireby, and
Newton Arlosh.

New Schemes pending.—

Wigton town and Rayophane trade waste
effluent.

Aikton, Wiggonby, Oughterby, Glasson, Drum-
burgh, Boltongate, Sebergham, Welton, and
Edderside.

Joint Scheme for Mawbray, Beckfoot, and New
Mawbray.

Joint Scheme for Bromfield, Langrigg, and
Blencogo.

Also the following which had been approved by the
Ministry of Health before the war:—

Caldbeck, Hesket-new-Market, Kirkbampton, and
Little Bampton.

SECTION D.**HOUSING**

See Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION E.**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

See Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The infectious disease notifications show that the number of **Scarlet Fever** cases were about one half the average of the previous 6 years; only 1942 showed a lower figure.

Measles notifications were two and a half times the average and were slightly in excess of the previous highest figure of 500 in 1940, but there were no deaths from this disease.

Whooping Cough on the other hand was down by about 50 per cent.; there was one death from this disease.

Of the non-notifiable diseases, **Chicken Pox** was about half the average. **Mumps** approximately the average and **Influenza** about one third of the average.

There were no cases of **Typhoid** or **Para-Typhoid** notified during the year.

Sonne Dysentery.—From the civilian population 17 cases were notified, and of these 16 were in March and April from Aspatia and the immediate vicinity, and all were notified by the same doctor.

A careful check up was made of the milk and food consumed in the affected houses to try and find a possible common source, or starting point, of the disease, but nothing of any value was discovered, as at least four different milk vendors and numerous 'grocers' shops were patronised by the families concerned, and the majority of the affected families were not contacts of one another.

Diphtheria.—During the year 10 cases of Diphtheria were notified (M., 4; F., 6) among the civilian population and 2 more among service personnel.

Of the 10 civilian cases 9 were in Wigton, and 3 were in one house and 2 in another, 7 of the notified cases had

not been immunised, 5 cases were removed to hospital, including 2 children who had been immunised about 4½ years previously.

Several of the notified cases were really only “carriers” and were not removed to hospital.

One unimmunised child of 8 died in hospital from a trachial infection.

The sexes and ages at the time of notification were as follows :—

Males—6, 10, 17.

Females—9 months, 2½, 8, 13, 21, 21, 22.

These notifications were the highest since 1939 and are about double the average of the previous six years. It will be noted that there were six cases among children of school age or less and that three of them had not been immunised at any time and the others were all due for a “booster” dose.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Diphtheria immunisation of children between the ages of about one year and school leaving age has been extensively carried out in the area since 1941. At first it was done at special visits to the school only and later regular monthly sessions have been held at the Wigton and Aspatria Clinics. The usual practice now is to give the first dose at the time of my visit to the schools for the Annual School Medical Inspections and to return and give the second dose about a month later.

The amount of time and travelling entailed has been very considerable owing to the scattered nature of the population. In the larger villages we have recently had up to 20 children at a time, but in the smaller ones there have been many occasions where the numbers were from 1 to 6.

The following is a summary of the figures which has been taken from the official return recently sent to the Ministry of Health.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1945.

Age at 31/12/45	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14. 1931	Total
Year of birth	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1936-1940	1945	Under 15
Number Immunised	13	112	282	337	366	1858	1782	4750
			1110			3640		
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1945			1950			3600		5550

In addition to the above figures about 1200 additional children have been immunised and who are now over 15 years of age and are, therefore, not included in the official return.

It will be noted that the total immunisation done in the age groups 5 to 9 and 10 to 15 exceed the estimated number of children residing in the area in these age groups. This apparent discrepancy is due to the fact that the immunisation figures include many hundreds of evacuees who have now left the district and who, of course, are not now included in the estimated child population of the area. The actual numbers of children immunised during 1945 were 444 under 5 years of age, and 149 between 5 and 14, a total of 593. It is estimated that 56 per cent. of all children under 5 years of age have now been immunised and about 92 per cent. of those between 5 and 15, i.e., attending school.

Prevention of Blindness.—Appropriate treatment is undertaken by the County Council.

Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations 1925, and Section No. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.—No action was necessary during the year under these regulations.

MILK SAMPLING

The following figures give the details of all samples taken in this area during 1945. It will be noted that they do not quite agree with those supplied by the County M.O.H., because the County figures do not include "qualifying" samples and others which were taken for special purposes.

		T.T.	Accredited.	Total Graded Milk.	Ungraded Milk.
No. of Graded Licences in force at end of 1945	...	33	45	78	—
No. of Samples taken	...	102	188	290	182
No. of Samples reaching Accredited Standard	...	57	110	167	71
		55.9 %	58.5 %	57.6 %	53.8 %
No. of Samples below Accredited Standard	...	45	78	123	61
		44.1 %	41.5 %	42.4 %	46.2 %

The number of samples taken during the year was a little below that of 1944. There has been a continual increase in the number of T.T. licences in recent years, an addition of 11 during 1945, but there has been a fall in the total of graded licences—down by 6 during the past year, and this accounts largely for the reduction in the total number of samples taken compared with previous years.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of satisfactory samples shows a slight increase in all grades and particularly of the Accredited (7.6 per cent.), but for all that I am still far from satisfied with the results as a whole, as the figures for the graded licences are still below the average for the whole County.

Many farms still persist in failing to carry out efficient sterilisation, and, of course, the human element plays a very large part too.

I have to thank the County Medical Officer of Health for the following figures which relate to the Milk Sampling done for the whole of the County of Cumberland during 1945.

Grade of Milk.			No. Licences in force.	Satis- factory Samples.	Unsatis- factory Samples.	Total.
T.T.	...	...	229	486 78 %	194 29 %	680
Accredited	...	...	193	478 65 %	258 35 %	736
Ungraded	...	...	—	239 44 %	307 56 %	546
All Grades	...	...	—	1,203 61 %	759 39 %	1,962
All Grades.						
WIGTON R.D.	...	...	—	197 54 %	166 46 %	363

WIGTON RURAL DISTRICT

The number of cases of Tuberculosis, etc., detected on veterinary examination or reported otherwise are as under.

			1945.	Average for five years 1940-1944.	
Tuberculous Samples	...	...	Nil	...	6
Tuberculosis of Udder, etc.	...	...	1	...	6
Chronic Cough	...	...	2	...	8
Atrophy, Mastitis, Non-T.B., etc.	...	...	44	...	62
			—	—	—
Total			47	...	82
			—	—	—

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

Vital Statistics — Year Ended 31st December, 1945

	Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Administrative County of Cumberland	17.4	12.7	48
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven)	17.2	13.8	56
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	17.5	12.0	43
Wigton Rural District	19.7	12.5	46
England and Wales	16.1	11.4	46

Tuberculosis cases on the Local Register on December 31st, 1945

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	49	37	86
Non-Pulmonary	33	45	78
All forms of Tuberculosis ...	82	82	164

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1945

WIGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

DISEASE,	NOTIFIED CASES.			DEATHS.		
	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.
Civilians :						
Scarlet Fever	19	6	13	—	—	—
Diphtheria	10	4	6	1	—	1
Typhoid Fever and Para-Typhoid	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	17	9	8	5	3	2
Erysipelas	11	4	7	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	525	278	247	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	50	27	23	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	2	—	—	—
Sonne Dysentery	19	8	11	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	3	3	—	1	1	—
Non-civilians :						
Malaria	5	5	—	—	—	—
Sonne Dysentery	14	11	3	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

New cases of Tuberculosis—all forms—notified during 1945 with the deaths from this disease during the same period:—

Age Group.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—15	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
25—35	...	4	—	—	2	—	—	—
35—45	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
All ages	7	5	5	1	2	5	—	—
	12		6		7		Nil	

Average for the

6 years

1940-45	11.5	8.5	6.8	2.1
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4 years

1936-39	14.75	8.5	7.5	3.75
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General Practitioners Monthly Returns

These returns have been regularly received from the General Practitioners in the area and in addition to the figures of non-notifiable cases reported by them they have also informed me month by month of any other diseases which were prevalent in their practices.

Disease.	1945.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.	Average for the previous six years.
Chicken Pox		7	11	7	5	1	4	5	5	—	6	8	11	45	90
Mumps		4	8	8	5	8	11	15	7	6	9	10	32	70	76
Influenza		83	8	42	29	23	19	15	16	22	57	31	107	336	1065

**Causes of Death within the Wigton Rural District
during 1945 as given by the Registrar General**

Cause of Death.					Male.	Female.	Total.	
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	5	7	
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	7	4	11	} 36
Cancer of Uterus	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	
Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	
Cancer of Other Sites	...	...	...	...	12	10	22	
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Inter Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	17	25	42	
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	55	32	87	
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	6	10	16	
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	4	7	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	2	5	
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	—	2	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	7	9	
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	4	5	
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	1	3	4	
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	2	6	
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	4	3	7	
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	11	17	28	
Total ...					135	137	272	
Corresponding figures for 1944					135	136	271	
" " " 1943	...	...	...	...	152	138	290	
" " " 1942	...	...	...	...	121	135	256	
" " " 1941	...	...	...	...	128	154	282	

CANCER

Cancer was responsible for 36 deaths (M., 20 ; F., 16) equal to a death rate of 1.6 per 1,000 population or approximately one death in every 7.5—which is just the average of the last eight years.

The following details give the site of the disease and their distribution between the sexes:—

Site of Disease.	Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	Total.
Bowel	... 58, 76, 63, 59, 68, 73, 66	... 80, 76, 64	... 10
Stomach and Duodenum	... 74, 80, 77, 71, 66, 71	... 77, 57, 65, 75	... 10
Liver	... 63, 70, 82	... 60	... 4
Breast	... —	... 34, 55	... 2
Lungs	... 49	... 69	... 2
Prostate	... 61, 72	... —	... 2
Uterus	... —	... 65	... 1
Ovary	... —	... 68	... 1
Other Sites	... 72	... 63, 55, 48	... 4
Total ...	20	16	36



HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1945

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 200
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 237
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... 144
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 144
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 36
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 17

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 63

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By owners | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | — |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By owners | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | — |

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | — |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | — |

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

It is not possible to quote figures under this heading. The war years have played havoc with previous known statistics.

The figures being collated during the rural housing survey will bring us right up to date on this subject.

REPORT
ON THE
WORK CARRIED OUT
BY THE
SANITARY INSPECTORS
DURING THE YEAR

To Dr. H. C. Simpson, Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting the report showing the work of the sanitary inspectors during the year.

My colleague, Mr. Bennett, with whom I shared responsibility for the supervision of the area, has since left the service of the Council, but from figures subsequently supplied by him relating to his district I am enabled to give a comprehensive resume of the work carried out throughout the area.

War is an incentive to great forward strides in the field of medicine and surgery, improvements which fall to the lot of all mankind with the return of peace, but in another sphere of public health, that of environmental hygiene, a very different tale must be told.

Of necessity the building of new houses is related to the needs of the war factories rather than the needs of the people, and the advent of peace in this case shows a grave shortage of housing accommodation and acute overcrowding everywhere.

This represents by far the greatest problem the Council has to tackle in the immediate post-war years.

Rural Housing Survey.—At the instigation of the Government a nation wide survey of housing conditions in the rural areas is proceeding. Several meetings of representatives of the various rural authorities and the County Council were convened with a view to securing uniformity of action throughout the County.

The survey in this area commenced in November.

The extent of overcrowding and the number of families living as sub-tenants is thus ascertained, together with a great deal of other information, and the Council are basing their immediate post-war housing programme on these requirements. A small margin has been allowed in this building programme for the worst of the houses falling into the slum clearance category. The remaining problem of the eradication of the unfit houses must await more favourable times, when the reconditioning of many others can also be undertaken.

Control of Civil Building.—Legislation introduced at the end of July designed to control civil building work on jobs costing more than £10 by the issue of licences imposed a tremendous amount of extra work on the Department, as each application had to be carefully considered and this entailed an inspection on the site in most cases.

The object of this restrictive piece of legislation is to control the use of both labour forces and materials, in order that the all important task of building the new houses may not be jeopardised.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—Sixteen villages in addition to the three townships of Wigton, Aspatria, and Silloth enjoy the benefits of the water carriage system of sewage disposal. In addition several hundred septic tanks are in existence. Most of the village schemes were planned in the immediate pre-war years and are designed on the most up-to-date principles.

The accompanying table gives brief details of the various schemes at a glance.

Location of Scheme.	Sewage Pumps Actuated by Electric Power.					Sewage Pump Actuated by Oil Engine.
	Full Bacterial Treatment Works.	Modified form of Bacterial Treatment Works.	Tidal Outfall.	Fall obtained by Gravity.	One Pumping Station.	
Abbey Town	...	Yes.			Yes.	
Allonby	...		Yes.	Yes.		
Aspatria	...	Yes.			Yes.	Yes.
Blennerhasset	...	Yes.				
Bolton Low Houses	Yes.			Yes.		
Bowness	...		Yes.	Yes.		
Fletcherthown	...	Yes.		Yes.		
Hayton	...	Yes.		Yes.		
Ireby	...	Yes.		Yes.		
Kirkbride	...	Yes.			Yes.	Yes.
Newton Arlosh	...	Yes.			Yes.	
Port Carlisle	...		Yes.	Yes.		
Silloth	...		Yes.		Yes.	Yes.
Thursby	...	Yes.			Yes.	
Torpenhow	...	Yes.		Yes.		
Uldale	...	Yes.		Yes.		
Watch Hill	...		Yes.			
Westnewton	...	Yes.			Yes.	
Wigton	...		Yes.	Yes.		

Proposals have already been formulated for similar schemes in nineteen additional places and are awaiting Government sanction. When these are completed Wigton rural district should compare favourably with the best in the country as far as sewerage facilities are concerned.

Two of the existing schemes call for special mention, namely, Thursby and Wigton.

At the Thursby disposal works the brickwork of all the tanks had to be demolished and fresh walls built in concrete. The trouble arose owing to the use of unsuitable bricks when the works were constructed as recently as 1937.

The troubles in connection with the Wigton scheme are of a very serious nature and have been engaging the attention of the Council for some years now. The outcome of the matter is that an entirely new works is to be laid down to replace the present worn out and entirely unsatisfactory system of disposal.

Closet Accommodation.—Fifty-six conversions to the water carriage system, thirty-five to septic tanks and twenty-one to the Council's sewers, have been carried out.

Refuse Removal.—The Council own two 'Karrier Bantam' refuse collecting vehicles with which house refuse removal is undertaken by direct labour in certain parts of the area.

Silloth and Wigton, together with the villages of Thursby, Kirkbride, Oulton, Ireby, Uldale, Abbey Town and Allonby are included.

Aspatria is still done by contract, but the service given has always been very satisfactory.

The villages of Blennerhasset, Boltons, Fletchertown, Kirkbampton, and the hamlet of Watch Hill have a collection arranged on a contract basis.

Next year it is hoped to arrange collections in all the villages throughout the area by direct labour when the Council take delivery of their new ten cubic yard capacity "Karrier" vehicle.

Salvage.—The comparative table giving particulars of salvage collected and disposed of by the Department during the past five years shows a considerable falling off in the yield for the year under review.

	1941			1942			1943			1944			1945		
	T.	C.		T.	C.		T.	C.		T.	C.		T.	C.	
Waste Paper	74	11	...	158	10	...	131	12	...	131	17	...	80	3	
Rubber	—	—	...	20	9	...	8	17	...	3	3	...	—	12	
Textiles	—	—	...	5	6	...	7	4	...	4	13	...	1	7	
Bones	—	—	...	2	9	...	—	7	...	—	8	...	1	4	

All enthusiasm on the part of the public has now gone, but collections are still being maintained in those areas where refuse removal is carried out by direct labour.

The record yields of paper shown for the years 1942, 1943, and 1944 are a tribute to a host of voluntary workers drawn from the ranks of the Women's Voluntary Service, the Women's Institutes, the Boy Scouts, and last but by no means least the school children of the area, who were the backbone of the organisation. The splendid co-operation which the Head Teachers gave me throughout these years is gratefully acknowledged.

Rodent Control.—The technique advocated by the Ministry of Food is always used in the baiting of premises for rats in this area. The Council's refuse tips at Wigton were cleared and remained free from vermin for a period of many months afterwards. Sixty dead bodies were removed from the tips on the morning following the application of the poisoned baits.

Eighty manholes on Wigton sewers were baited and in only three cases was there evidence of the bait having been touched, which indicates a satisfactory state of affairs.

Public Conveniences.—Wilful damage is frequently reported in connection with the conveniences provided in various parts of the area. A few indecent and thoughtless people seem to take a delight in misusing such places, to the discomfiture of decent people who follow them.

Knackers Yard.—The one knackers yard provided in the area is far below standard and representations were made to the proprietor with a view to improvements being effected. In response to this request the owner undertook to construct new premises. I have since had an opportunity of inspecting the plans of the proposal, but up to the time of writing these have not been formally submitted.

Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites.—One person was given notice to remove a caravan which had been stationed on the front at Silloth, and in respect of which the Council were unwilling to issue a license. The van has been removed.

A complaint was received regarding one of the licensed camping sites at Allonby, but on careful investigation the complaint was found to be groundless.

Trouble was experienced in connection with inadequate sanitary accommodation at Moordale camping site, near Silloth, but on representation being made to the owner of the site additional water closets were constructed and the effluent drainage is being treated by means of septic tanks and soakaways.

Shops Act, 1934.—Thirty-one visits of inspection were made to shops in the area in connection with the provisions of the Act relating to ventilation, temperature, and sanitary conveniences.

In only one instance was it necessary to serve a notice calling attention to shortcomings.

Factories Act, 1937.—Very little time was found for inspections under this heading during the year. Out of twenty-eight inspections it was necessary to serve five notices drawing attention to defects as under :—

Want of cleanliness				1
Inadequate sanitary accommodation				2
Defective sanitary accommodation				1
Limewashing overdue				1

These notices were complied with during the year.

Two certificates were granted under Section 34 of the Act approving the means of escape provided in case of fire.

Meat and Food Inspection.—Unfortunately the table giving particulars of the work carried out at the Abattoir during the year cannot be prepared. The records from which the statistics should have been extracted were inadvertently included in a consignment of salvage sent from the slaughter house office.

The basis of inspection recommended by the Ministry of Health in Memorandum 62/Foods is adhered to closely.

Co-operation between this department and the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is maintained. Whenever tuberculosis in calves is found the name of the farm on which the animal was reared is telephoned to the Inspector in order that a veterinary inspection of the cows may be made. The incidence of tuberculosis in young pigs is treated similarly, as this is sometimes indicative of feeding on tuberculous cows milk.

The following table gives particulars of foodstuffs other than fresh meat which were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	307	lbs.
Canned Milk	...	...	...	...	187	lbs.
Canned Vegetables		...	...	...	51	lbs.
Canned Fish	...	...	...	...	49	lbs.
Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	196	lbs.
Fresh Fruit	...	...	...	...	1,326	lbs.
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	146	lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	111	dozen
Bacon	...	...	...	...	42	lbs.
Beef Sausage	...	...	...	...	25	lbs.
Pressed Beef	...	...	...	...	30	lbs.
Beef Cubes	...	...	...	...	6½	dozen
Margarine	...	...	...	...	61	lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	82	lbs.
Assorted Foodstuffs		...	...	...	84	lbs.

TABLE A

Summary of Inspections and Visits

Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	144
Public Health Act	...	...	156
Council House Repairs	...	...	390
Building Byelaws	...	...	125
Milk and Dairies	...	...	173
Abattoir	...	...	224
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	76
Sewers and Drains	...	...	138
Sewerage Schemes	...	...	163
Refuse Tips	...	...	32
Public Conveniences	...	...	52

Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	78
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	13
Factories	...	...	...	...	28
Shops	...	...	...	...	31
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	35
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	10
Infectious Diseases Inquiries	...	...	...	...	29
Building Licence Applications	...	...	...	...	125
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	75

TABLE B

Summary of Notices Served

INFORMAL:

Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	115
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	3
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	...	...	...	31
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	5
Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	1
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	23

STATUTORY:

Housing Act, 1936. Section 9	...	...	2
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 93	...	...	1

TABLE C

Work Carried out and Improvements Effected

Conversions to water carriage system	...	...	...	56
Septic tanks built	...	...	...	35
Connections to Council's sewer	...	...	...	21
Minor structural repairs and improvements	...	...	...	427
At private property	...	...	...	77
At Council houses	...	...	...	350
Major structural repairs and improvements	...	...	...	33
At private property	...	...	...	31
At Council houses	...	...	...	2
Extensive reconditioning schemes	...	...	...	11
Additional houses constructed	...	...	...	6
Entirely new construction	...	...	...	2
Conversions from other buildings	...	...	...	4

Ventilated food stores provided	...	...	...	...	14
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	25
Washbasins and sinks provided	...	...	...	...	53
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	74
New drains laid	...	...	...	...	98
New byres built	...	...	...	...	6
New dairies built	...	...	...	...	17
Existing byre and dairies renovated	...	...	...	...	28
Milk samples taken	...	...	...	...	422
Water samples taken	...	...	...	...	1
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	20
Premises disinfectd	...	...	...	...	—
Premises baited for heavy rat infestation	...	...	...	...	7
Plans examined and approved	...	...	...	...	53
Plans examined and rejected	...	...	...	...	4

TABLE D

Particulars of Plans Formally Submitted

APPROVED—

New dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	2
Additions and alterations to dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	12
New garages and outbuildings	...	...	...	...	8
New cowsheds and dairy buildings	...	...	...	...	10
Alterations to drainage	...	...	...	...	5
New factories	...	...	...	...	3
Additions to factories	...	...	...	...	2
New bakehouses and kitchens	...	...	...	...	2
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	7
Temporary buildings	...	...	...	...	1
Social centre hut	...	...	...	...	1

REJECTED—

Additions and alterations to dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	2
New garage	...	...	...	...	1
New factory	...	...	...	...	1

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBT. C. BLACKBURN.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE WIGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report for the year 1945 by J. R. Watters,
Water Engineer to the Wigton Rural District Council.

The year 1945 has provided an opportunity of making a comprehensive survey of the water supply for the Rural District as a whole.

This survey reveals that, while the district is well covered by the various existing schemes, much remains to be done, both for the improvement and extension of the piped supply schemes, and in some districts, for the improvement of the quality of the water supplied for domestic purposes.

Aspatria and Silloth Scheme.—The western half of the district is well supplied by good quality water from this scheme.

The war time demand necessitated the boosting of the whole supply by means of electrically driven pumps, and even with this assistance it was found difficult, in the early months of this year, to maintain pressures at the higher altitudes west of Aspatria.

It therefore became necessary to discontinue the bulk supply to Cockermouth R.D.C. at Prospect, and thereby obtain the exclusive use of Prospect Water Tower for the restoring of these pressures.

Electric pumping, as well as being costly, is only partially satisfactory, and was, in any case, only adopted as a temporary expedient.

Therefore, as soon as restrictions are removed, the question of enlarging the capacity of the trunk mains should be considered, in order to ensure an adequate supply to meet all prospective post-war demands.

Wigton Town Scheme.—During the year, much has been done to reduce the considerable amount of wastage on domestic services, the consumption having been reduced from 84 to 73 gallons per head of population.

This work has, however, been retarded owing to the impossibility of obtaining the new materials necessary for replacement of defective fittings on domestic services, so

that something like 80,000 gallons per day must continue to run down the drains until the supply position is improved.

The Spring sources are liable to gross contamination, and since neither filtration nor any sort of chemical treatment is applied to the raw water, the quality, as supplied for domestic consumption, is far below the standard required by the Ministry of Health, during periods of wet weather.

Eastern and Western Supply.—The combined sources of Greenfoot and Townthwaite have proved to be quite inadequate for the supply area attached to them.

The total quantity of water available at the sources during the summer was 177,000 gallons per day, while the demand was 307,000 gallons.

Fortunately, since the new Anthorn mains became available to the Council, it was found possible to divert 130,000 gallons per day into the deficient areas from the Aspatria and Silloth supply to make up this 40% deficiency.

Even with this assistance, some parts of Aikton, Westward, and Thursby Parishes suffered considerable inconvenience during August, when many consumers were without water for periods of several successive days.

Northern Parishes Supply. (Bowness and Kirkbampton).—The supply to these Parishes, as taken from the mains of the Carlisle Corporation at Boustead Hill and Thurstonfield, is incapable of maintaining pressures during milk-cooling periods.

Proposals are under consideration, however, for the laying of mains to connect up to the Aspatria and Silloth supply at Whitrigg to the existing mains in Bowness village, thus bringing additional water to the point of lowest pressure in Bowness Parish.

In Kirkbampton Parish, no such augmentation is at present possible as the mains adjacent to the Aspatria and Silloth supply are too small.

Oughterby village will, therefore, remain inadequately supplied until augmentation can be provided from some other source.

Caldbeck Parish.—The villages of Caldbeck and Hesket are supplied from two small spring sources, neither of which is satisfactory in quality, while the mains system

is too small to provide more than the minimum domestic requirements.

A new scheme was designed for the Parish in 1939 and approved by the Ministry of Health, but had to be postponed owing to the war.

In the meantime the demand for milk production has considerably increased, and it will be necessary to provide a more comprehensive scheme to cover the highest possible percentage of farms in the Parish in addition to the domestic demand for which the 1939 scheme was mainly designed.

Sebergham Supply.—This Parish is supplied from the mains of the Border Rural District Council, and during warm weather, the pressure at the higher altitudes is intermittent.

The Parish is remote from any other source, and its inclusion in any proposed new scheme would be costly and difficult.

It is highly probable that the Border R.D.C. will be obliged to improve their own scheme in the near future, and such improvement will restore the former satisfactory position in Sebergham.

General Observations.—From the foregoing statement, two facts stand out clearly.

- (a) that while the existing system of distributing mains covers the major part of the Rural District, many Parishes are very inadequately supplied, due, in some cases to lack of mains capacity and the restricted yield at the source.
- (b) that the quality of the water supplied to some Parishes needs serious and early attention.

It can now also be stated that the sources of the Eastern and Western supply, which are subject to gross pollution from surface drainage during heavy rainfall, cannot be safeguarded by the existing chlorinating system, owing to the rapid change of quality engendered by weather variations.

The post-war policy of the Council should, therefore, be directed to the elimination of all the unsatisfactory independent sources of water supply, and to the concentra-

tion of the supply for the largest possible area, in one comprehensive scheme.

The Aspatria and Silloth Scheme lends itself admirably to such development as would provide an ample supply of water for the whole district north of a line drawn between Mealsgate and Thursby.

The existing Filter Works can readily be extended to treat the whole of the water for this area, under the accepted principle that it is easier and more economical to control the quality of one large supply than to treat several smaller supplies.

The previous barrier to such a comprehensive scheme was the financial complications under the former system of Parish Revenue Accounts.

Under the new system of accounting, the way has been cleared for the logical and natural development of the water resources within the Wigton Rural District, and for the extension of the enjoyment of a water supply of excellent quality at suitable pressure to many Parishes where both these desirable qualifications have been lacking.

In such a scheme, it may even be found possible to boost water to an elevation suitable for the supply of Caldbeck and Sebergham, so that, with the exception of Ireby Parish the whole Rural District would be supplied from one source, and so meet the demand of the 1945 Water Act, that "it shall be the duty of every Local Authority to provide a supply of wholesome water to every part of their district in which there are houses and schools".

In considering this report, particularly on the question of deficiencies in water supply, it must be appreciated that, during the six years of war, the Council have not been allowed to carry out any works of improvement, and for that reason, improvements which were already overdue in 1939 still remain to be done when restrictions are removed.

Report on Bacteriological Examination

Aspatria and Silloth Supply	...	...	"Highly satisfactory."
Townthwaite Supply	...	...	"Highly satisfactory."
Greenfoot Supply	...	...	"Highly satisfactory."
Wigton Town Supply	...	...	"Unsatisfactory."

